

SECRET **SECURITY INFORMATION**
Department of State

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Memorandum of Conversation

Subject: Tunisia

Date: May 22, 1952

Participants: The Under Secretary G Mr. Matthews
NEA - Mr. Jerry UNA - Mr. Hickerson
EUR - Mr. Bonbright S/P - Mr. Ferguson
NE - Mr. G. L. Jones S/S - Mr. McWilliams
UNP - Mr. Wainhouse USUN - Mr. Maffitt
WE - Mr. McBride AF - Mr. Cyr
Mr. Jernegan - CONGEN Tunis

Copies to: Participants EMB Cairo
LtG Tangier EMB London
CONGEN Tunis CONGEN Algiers
CONGEN Casablanca COM Rabat
EMB Paris EMB Ankara
EMB New Delhi EMB Karachi
AF - Mr. Richey DDM - Mr. Brown
S/S ✓ DRE
CIA

Mr. Bruce welcomed Mr. Jernegan to Washington and asked him to state his views on Tunisia, with particular reference to action that the French should take and any recommendation he might wish to make as to what the United States position should be.

Mr. Jernegan stated that the Nationalist movement in Tunisia started in the early 1920's - a fact which is too often overlooked by the French. The Neo-Destour Party's alleged membership of 300,000 may be exaggerated, but recent events have certainly swelled the ranks of sympathizers to much more than that. Current events have brought about a solidarity among the Tunisian people, including even the moderates. This solidarity now reflects a body of opinion which cannot be eradicated by force - it can only be channeled. From this viewpoint, Mr. Jernegan said, he believes the French have made many mistakes in the last few months. They have offered too little too late. The French December 15 note, for example, was very badly framed and offended the Tunisians very deeply.

In answer to Mr. Matthews' question as to the background of this note, Mr. Jernegan explained that upon becoming disillusioned with the manner in which the French had handled the situation, he had written a note to the Secretary of State on 12/15/51.

REVIEWED BY <i>ERC</i>	were	DATE <i>7-81</i>
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